

# CHESTER SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## *BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS*

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The Chester Soil and Water Conservation District, a subdivision of state government, was organized on March 4, 1938, in accordance with Conservation District Law Number 182 of the 1937 South Carolina General Assembly. It was originally organized as a part of the Catawba Conservation District, which included Chester, Fairfield, Lancaster, and York Counties. Chester became a single district in July 1950. The District is governed by a Board of Commissioners pictured above: Left to right: Rodger McDaniel; Joe S. Gaston, Jr.; Allen L. Beer, Chairman; and Mac Turner, Secretary-Treasurer. Jeff Wilson, Vice Chairman, was unavailable.

### Special points of interest:

- WELCOME TO JOE S. GASTON, JR.
- RESPONSIBILITIES OF WATERSHED DIRECTORS
- MISSION OF THE CHESTER DISTRICT
- ADVANTAGES OF NO-TILL FARMING
- FAREWELL TO MRS. HAUSMAN



## *FAREWELL TO MARGARET SUSAN MCCANDLESS HAUSMAN*

In 1989 Margaret Susan McCandless Hausman began to serve on the Board of Commissioners of the Chester Soil and Water Conservation District. She held the position of Secretary-Treasurer for many years, giving selflessly of her time and energy. Needless to say the Board will miss her faithfulness and knowledge of conservation programs. The Board wishes her the very best in the future. In her honor, the Board has established the Margaret Susan McCandless Hausman Gallery in the USDA Building that will display winning student art.

**2014 AFFILIATE MEMBERS****CORPORATE**

AMERICAN FOREST MANAGEMENT, INC.  
BARRON FUNERAL HOME  
CHESTER HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION  
OMNOVA SOLUTIONS, INC.  
SPRATT SAVINGS & LOAN ASSOCIATION  
YORK ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC,

**PATRON**

AME, INC.  
JOANNA ANGLE/DR. W. D. ALTMAN  
CHESTER COUNTY NATURAL GAS AUTHORITY  
CHESTER METROPOLITAN DISTRICT  
BRUCE DENTON TREE FARM  
DUKE ENERGY  
ROBERT L. HOLCOMBE  
RANDY HOPE  
GLENN MCFADDEN  
JOHN W. PARRIS  
DR. ROBERT E. SHANNON  
DR. SAM AND BEVERLY STONE

**SUSTAINING**

AgSOUTH FARM CREDIT, ACA  
BETTY B. ANDERSON  
NANCY C. ANDERSON  
CAROLINA EASTERN, INC.  
CARTER'S LANDSCAPE AND DESIGN  
FAIRFIELD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.  
MARGARET M. HAUSMAN  
HIPPLAND SURVEYING, INC  
ANN S. MCNERNEY  
DR. JOHN D. SHERER  
JACK & ANN SZOKE  
WILSON'S FARM SUPPLY  
ROBERT K. WYLIE  
**SUPPORTING**  
NORMA J. ALT  
CITY TRUE VALUE HARDWARE  
DEAN EXCAVATING & GRADING  
EZELL HARDWARE

**2014 SOIL & WATER STEWARDSHIP WEEK****APRIL 27 TO MAY 4, 2014**

Pictured above are Allen L. Beer, chairman of the Chester Soil and Water Conservation District, and Chester County Supervisor R. Carlisle Roddey, who is signing the 2014 Soil and Water Stewardship Week Proclamation. The proclamation reads, "Whereas fertile soil and clean water provide us with our daily sustenance, and whereas effective conservation practices have helped provide us a rich standard of living, and whereas our security depends upon healthy soil and clean water, and whereas stewardship calls for each person to help conserve these precious resources, therefore, I do hereby proclaim April 27 to May 4 Soil and Water Stewardship Week."

The soil stewardship observance was actually started in 1946 by the publishers of Farm and Ranch Magazine to set aside one Sunday to remind their congregations of man's duty to be good stewards of the land. It was only celebrated in a few southern states. It was received so well that additional states asked to be added. The publishers suggested to the National Association of Conservation Districts in 1954 to make it a nationwide observance, and the first Soil and Water Stewardship Week began in 1955. The year 2015 will mark the 60th national observance.

## **WATERSHED DIRECTORS**

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE WATERSHED DIRECTORS INCLUDE OVERSEEING MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS TO THE DAMS AND DRAINAGE CANALS, ADDRESSING SOIL AND WATER ISSUES IN THE WATERSHED AND PREVENTING STRUCTURES FROM BEING LOCATED IN THE FLOOD POOL. THE PURPOSE OF WATERSHED DISTRICTS IS TO PROMOTE CONCENTRATED EFFORTS WITHIN THE WATERSHED TO ESTABLISH CONSERVATION PRACTICES, INCLUDING STABILIZATION OF CRITICALLY ERODING AREA, DRAINAGE MEASURES, AND FLOOD CONTROL.

### **ROCKY CREEK**

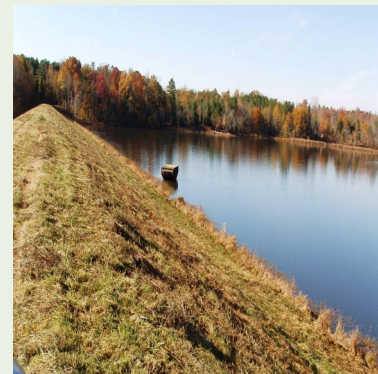
KEITH MCDONALD,  
CHAIRMAN

CALVIN C. CLARK  
CLAUDIA DEAN  
OSCAR L. "BUDDY" PEAY  
WILLIAM F. WISHERT

### **TINKER'S CREEK**

DAVID WILSON  
CHAIRMAN

HENRY F. ALLEN  
HENRY T. WESTBROOK  
MIKE W. ALLEN



## **ARBOR DAY PROJECT**

ARBOR DAY BEGAN IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA IN 1872 AS THE BRAINCHILD OF JULIUS STERLING MORTON, A NEBRASKA JOURNALIST AND POLITICIAN. THE MOVEMENT HAS GROWN OVER THE PAST 140 YEARS THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES

AND THE WORLD. IN SOUTH CAROLINA, ARBOR DAY IS CELEBRATED THE FIRST FRIDAY IN DECEMBER OF EACH YEAR.

OVER 50 CREPE MYRTLE TREES IN THREE GALLON CONTAINERS WERE GIVEN AWAY TO CHES-

TER COUNTY CITIZENS BY THE DISTRICT DURING THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 2-6, 2013.

THE TREES WERE GROWN AND DISTRIBUTED BY J. B. GREENHOUSES AND NURSERY, LOCATED AT 2082 GREAT FALLS ROAD.

**"OVER 50 CREPE MYRTLE TREES IN THREE GALLON CONTAINERS WERE GIVEN AWAY TO CHESTER COUNTY CITIZENS BY THE DISTRICT."**

## **WELCOME JOE S. GASTON, JR.**



On April 15, 2014, Mr. Joe S. Gaston, Jr., "Joey" was administered the Oath of Office of Board Commissioner by Marc Cribb, Program Manager, SCDNR. Joey was appointed by the Department of Natural Resources Board to serve as the replacement for Margaret Susan Hausman who resigned in November 2013. Joey is the son of Joe and Libby Gaston of

Richburg and is married to Marie Westbrook Gaston. They are the parents of three girls, Jo Beth, Maggie, and Annie. Joey has been a self-employed farmer for over 25 years and actively participates in NRCS Conservation Practices.

We want to warmly welcome Joey to the Board.



## 2014 CONTEST AWARD WINNERS

Each year the Chester Soil and Water Conservation District sponsors four educational contests for students who attend school in Chester County or who live in Chester County. They are the Bulletin Board Contest, the Essay Contest, the Photography Contest, and the Poster Contest. The 2014 theme was ***"DIG DEEPER: MYSTERIES OF THE SOIL."***

### **BULLETIN BOARD CONTEST -FIRST PLACE WINNERS**



Grade 4, Gwen Hope, Teacher  
THE ACADEMY



Multi-Age Class, Jennifer Adkins, Teacher  
CHESTER PARK-INQUIRY



Home School Group  
THE GLENN SCHOOL



Third Grade Classes  
Creighton, Nash, Rogers, Weir  
LEWISVILLE ELEMENTARY



Third Grade Class  
Dacus and Bradshaw  
CHESTER PARK-ARTS

OVER 700 STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN THE BULLETIN BOARD CONTEST. ENTRIES WERE JUDGED ON THE CONSERVATION MESSAGE, VISUAL EFFECTIVENESS, IMAGINATION, CREATIVITY, AND CLARITY. ALL STUDENTS IN THE CLASS MUST HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE PROCESS.

THE WINNERS RECEIVED A CERTIFICATE AND A MONETARY GIFT TO BE USED AT THE TEACHER'S DISCRETION FOR CLASSROOM SUPPLIES.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE WINNERS.

### **ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS**



PICTURED ON THE LEFT IS KATIE ELISE GLENN FROM THE GLENN SCHOOL. IN THE MIDDLE PICTURE ARE THE LEWISVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL WINNERS, LEFT TO RIGHT: JADA LATRICE FOSSETT, CHLOE JANE RICE, DAKOTA ELIZABETH EASTERLING, AMBER RENEE BASS, JUSTIN ALLEN THOMAS, TATIANA FOSSETT, AND JACOB BRADLEY JORDAN. WYATT GRANT THOMAS FROM THE ACADEMY IS PICTURED ON THE LEFT.

### **POSTER CONTEST WINNERS**



The first place winner, Gabriel Alexander Welch, kindergarten student at Chester Park School of the Arts, is pictured on the left with his teacher, Whitney Davis. Pictured on the right are Tyler Jordan Santner, third place winner, and Jordan Freeman, second place winner, with their teacher, Marilyn Pressley, art teacher at Lewisville Elementary.



### **PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST - FIRST PLACE WINNERS**



The 2014 Photography Contest was a very successful contest that was open to Chester County students in grades 6 through 12. There were three divisions: grades six through eight, grades nine and ten, grades eleven and twelve. Categories were trees, plants, native wildlife, landscapes or rural life. Zack Weir, eighth grade student at Lewisville Middle School was the first place winner for grades six through eight.

All winners received an award certificate and a monetary gift. First place winners also received a gift subscription to SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE magazine. The first place winning photographs were on display for the month of May at the Chester Arts Council office at 123 Main Street in downtown Chester. Pictured at the right are Samantha Gustafson, first place winner in the grades nine and ten division and Beth Mitchell, first place winner in the grades eleven and twelve division. CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL WINNERS.



### **ALLEN L. BEER SCHOLARSHIP**



Each year the Chester Soil and Water Conservation District and its board of commissioners sponsor the Allen L. Beer Scholarship for a Chester County high school senior who plans to enter college majoring in an agricultural or environmental related field. This year the board awarded the Allen L. Beer Scholarship to Gill Allen Wilson, a senior at Lewisville High School. Mr. Wilson plans to enter Clemson University in the fall as an agricultural mechanization major. The \$500 scholarship was presented to Mr. Wilson by Mr. Beer at the Lewisville High School Awards Night. The Board extends its best wishes and congratulations to Gill Allen Wilson.



## USDA

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We're on the Web:

<http://chesterswcd.yolasite.com>

The mission of the Chester Soil and Water Conservation District is to promote the wise use and care of our natural resources of soil, water, air, plants and animals for the benefit of the citizens of Chester County.

*The Chester Soil and Water Conservation District meets at 9:30 A.M. on the third Tuesday of each month in the conference room of the USDA building at 744 Wilson Street in Chester. All programs and services of the district are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, age, gender, national origin, religion, handicap, or marital status.*

*The District programs are administered by a board of commissioners consisting of three members elected in the general election and two members appointed by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources and the USDA Natural Resources. The District is assisted by District Coordinator Carol Shockley, NRCS District Conservationist Bruce Andrews, NRCS Engineer Scott Glenn, and NRCS Soil Conservation Technician Jackie Heuermann.*

## HELPING PEOPLE HELP THE LAND

## NO-TILL FARMING



SUNFLOWER NO-TILL  
DRILL

CONSERVATION TILLAGE, ALSO KNOWN AS NO-TILL FARMING, IS A WAY OF GROWING CROPS FROM YEAR-TO-YEAR WITHOUT DIS-TURBING THE SOIL THROUGH CONVENTIONAL TILLAGE.

CONVENTIONAL TILLING agitates the soil in various ways, usually with tractor drawn implements. This can lead to unfavorable effects, like soil compaction, loss of organic matter, degradation of soil aggregates, death or disruption of soil microbes, arthropods, and earthworms, and soil erosion where topsoil is blown or washed away.

IN NO-TILL FARMING the soil is left intact and crop residue is left on the field, thus avoiding those unfavorable effects. Advantages of conservation tillage as listed by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources:

REDUCED LABOR AND FUEL NEEDS

TIME SAVINGS

EASIER PLANTING

MORE SOIL MOISTURE

BETTER SOIL TILTH

LESS EROSION

The Chester Soil and Water Conservation District invites everyone to participate in the effort to conserve natural resources and aid in the prevention of soil loss here in Chester County by renting a no-till drill for planting needs. The District has two no-till drills available to rent for \$10 per acre.